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B.—Beneath snowy-white; nape pure white; forehead wholly white in summer; feet black or red; tarsus .60 or less; culmen, 1.25 or less.

Bill deep black; feet deep black. Wing, 9.60; tail, 6.00; depth of fork, 2.60; culmen, 1.15; depth of bill, .25; tarsus, .55; middle toe, .60.

S. PORTLANDICA.

Bill dusky reddish; feet reddish. Wing, 9.00; tail, 5.50; culmen, 1.12; tarsus, .50.

S. PIKEI.

S. longipennis agrees very closely with both *S. hirundo* and *S. macroura* in the main points of coloration, having the same decided grayish tinge to the lower parts and nape, and the forehead black. The specimen compared, however, differs from both these species in having the white terminal borders to the longer scapulars, tertials and inner primaries much less distinct; the outer surface of the primaries is more silvery, and the black of the nape appears to extend farther down, terminating at about 3.00 from the base of the culmen instead of at less than 2.50. Whether this last feature depends upon the "make" of the skin is uncertain.—ROBERT RIDGWAY.

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

NEW FORMS OF ELASMOSAURIDÆ.—Professor H. G. Seeley has recently examined the structure of the reptiles found in the English formations referred by authors to the old genus *Plesiosaurus*. He finds that the modifications in the structure of the scapular arch are such as to require their reference to two families, the *Plesiosauridæ* and *Elasmosauridæ*. The former embraces only the genus *Plesiosaurus*; the latter includes *Elasmosaurus* and three new genera, namely, *Eretmosaurus*, *Colymbosaurus* and *Muraenosaurus*. The characters distinguishing these genera are principally discoverable in the scapular arch.—E. D. C.

AMERICAN TYPES IN THE CRETACEOUS OF NEW ZEALAND.—Mr. Hector, the paleontologist of New Zealand, has obtained and described the remains of numerous extinct reptiles which present various points of resemblance to those disclosed by explorations in Kansas, and described in Dr. Hayden's annual reports. Thus he finds a species of *Polycotylus* and a form which he states to be allied to *Elasmosaurus*, called *Tanivasaurus*. He adds a number

of species of *Pythonomorpha*, among which are a *Liodon*, with a conic muzzle, and a new genus allied to *Clidastes*. Other species are referred to the true *Plesiosaurus*.—E. D. C.

A NEW MASTODON.—The Mastodon of the Santa Fé marls turns out to be distinct from the *M. Chapmanii* of the East, and the *M. Shepardii* of California, and is allied to the *M. longirostris* of Europe. It has been named *N. productus* Cope. The presence of the genera of Mammalia characteristic of the Pliocene formations of Nebraska and Colorado refers these beds to the same horizon. A report on the paleontology of the formation is just issued by the Chief of Engineers, Washington.—E. D. C.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

CREMATION AMONG NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.¹—The object of the present note is merely to record the fact, that among the many different methods of paying the last tribute of respect to deceased members of the tribe, which are now practised by the native races of North America, cremation is not entirely omitted.

In December, 1850, while enjoying the hospitality of the detachment of the 2nd U. S. Infantry, which at that time established Fort Yuma, the military post at the junction of the Colorado and Gila Rivers in California, I availed myself of the kind offer of Mr. Jordan, one of the owners of the ferry near the post, to make with him an exploration of the river below the junction.

Starting in a small flat boat, which he generously sacrificed for the purpose, with a Yuma Indian, who had a feeble knowledge of Spanish, as guide and interpreter, we floated down with the current of the river, making, by the aid of a solar compass, a rough survey. On the afternoon of the third day we arrived at the lowest village of the Cocopa Indians, who are the next tribe south of the Yumas. Below that village we were told that the spring tides widely overflowed the banks of the river, and that if we went farther, the softness of the mud might seriously hinder our return.

The next day I learned from the guide that an old man had died in a village near the east bank of the river, and that the body was to be burned.

¹ Read at the Hartford Meeting Amer. Assoc. Adv. Sci.